

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were examined in the Office Action mailed December 31, 2008. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5 and 8-9 recite patentable subject matter.

In order to advance the claims to allowance, the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6-7 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 2, and canceled claims 2 without prejudice to the subject matter therein. Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-9 are in condition for allowance.

As to the remaining issues identified in the pending Office Action, the Applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to address the double-patenting rejection of the claims with respect to claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 7,424,426.

As to the objection to the November 5, 2008 Information Disclosure Statement for failure to note the publication date of the A5 reference, the Applicants note that this document does not have a publication date listed thereon, however, the first page indicates that the paper was published in volume 10 of the *Computer Speech and Language* journal in 1996. Further, the last page of this document indicates that the paper was received on April 22, 1996, and was accepted in revised form on September 6, 1996. In view of this information, the Applicants are submitting herewith a revised Form 1449, adding the 1996 date to the reference A5 listing. Examiner acknowledgement of consideration of the entire Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

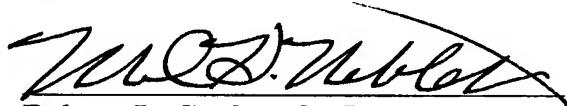
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-9 are in condition allowance. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037068.59424US).

Respectfully submitted,

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